Mr. Mock the Author's
Compliments

SEFTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1909.

DONARD LODGE,

WALTON,

LIVERPOOL, *21st February, 1910.*

To the Chairman and Members of the Sefton Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present you with my Annual Report for 1909.

Population

The estimated population of the District is 5,808.

Births

107 Births have been registered during 1909, exactly the same number as during the previous year, 1908, the only difference being a matter of sex, as in the past year 49 Males and 58 Females were born whereas in 1908 the proportion was almost directly opposite, namely—61 Males and 46 Females.

Birth Rate

The Birth Rate therefore remains the same, namely—18·4 per 1,000 inhabitants.

Deaths

The number of Deaths of people belonging to the District is 73, 38 Males and 35 Females, as against 79 in the previous year.

Death Rate

The Death Rate is consequently 12·6 per 1,000 as against 13·6 in 1908, and is the lowest we have recorded for many years.

Deaths of Infants under one year

The number of deaths of Infants under one year is 8. This gives an Infant Death Rate to 1,000 Births of 74·7, as against 65·4 in the previous year.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases

The number of Deaths from Zymotic Diseases was 3 only, two from Measles and one from Whooping Cough. These were certified as named but all three died of the usual complication—Pneumonia.

Zymotic Death Rate

The Zymotic Death Rate is therefore 0·5, exactly the same as in the previous year, and is an exceptionally low ratio, and a low rate from these Diseases is always a matter of satisfaction.

Infectious Diseases

30 Notifications of cases of Infectious Diseases have been received as against 23 in the previous year. This increase is mainly due to the number of cases of Erysipelas of a simple kind which have occasionally arisen at indefinite periods. The diseases notified were as follows :—

Nature of Infection

1909.		1908.
2	Diphtheria	1
9	Erysipelas	3
18	Scarlatina	15
1	Enteric Fever	3
0	Puerperal Fever	1
30		23

Distribution of Infectious Diseases

Parish.	Diphtheria.	Scarlatina.	Erysipelas.	Enteric.	Totals.
West Derby Rural ..	2	6	1	0	9
Kirkby	0	2	1	0	3
Aintree	0	2	1	0	3
Sefton	0	2	3	0	5
Netherton	0	6	0	1	7
Ford	0	0	2	0	2
Thornton	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	2	18	9	1	30

Infectious Diseases, where treated

Ten cases were removed to the Liverpool City Infectious Hospitals as per arrangement, as follows :—

From West Derby Rural—1 Diphtheria and 3 Scarlatina.
„ Aintree 2 „
„ Sefton 1 „
„ Netherton 1 Enteric 1 „
„ Kirkby 1 „

All these cases recovered.

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The remainder of the Infectious Cases were isolated and treated in their own homes.

It was not considered necessary to open our own Cottage Hospital at Kirkby during the past year.

Deaths belonging to District, occurring outside District

Eight Deaths belonging to your District have occurred in Institutions within the City of Liverpool and are included as usual in the general Death Return of this District.

Deaths belonging to other Districts

Five Deaths belonging to other Districts occurred in Institutions within this District.

Sanitary Inspector's Department

The following table shows work carried out during the year under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector :—

Notices to strip and cleanse infected houses	30
Repairs to blocked and defective drains	38
Offensive ditches and water courses cleansed	11
Cesspools provided and overflows from existing ones stopped...	12
Accumulations of offensive filth and water removed ...	14
Pigs and poultry filthily kept	4
Roofs, ashpits and closets repaired	12
Yard surfaces repaired	16
Dirty houses cleansed	1
Cowsheds improved to comply with bye-laws	2
Sample of drinking water analysed	1
Houses supplied with Liverpool water	20
House dilapidated, pulled down upon complaint	1
Insanitary houses reported unfit for habitation	6
Complaints *re* River Alt pollution	2
Complaints received from the public	10
Inspections and visits relating to abatement of nuisances	331
Visits to infected houses	60
	571

Disinfection of Bedding, Carpets, &c.

This, as usual, has been done by the Liverpool Health Committee as per arrangement, and always to my satisfaction.

TOWNSHIPS.

Aintree

In this Parish two cases of Scarlatina and one of Erysipelas were reported, and each ended in recovery.

There was at one time a large number of cases of Measles here, and it was fortunately not necessary to close the Schools as seemed probable for a time.

Croxteth

Once again free from Infectious Disease, and no comment is required as to the Sanitary condition of this small township.

Ford

Two cases of Erysipelas comprise the Infectious Diseases here.

The Cottages referred to in my last Annual Report have been improved, and are now in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Sefton

Three sporadic cases of Erysipelas and two cases of Scarlatina were reported here. One case of Scarlatina was sent to the Liverpool City Hospital; the other was isolated and treated at home.

Twenty more houses have been supplied with Liverpool water by extension of the existing mains.

The two cottages in Brickwall Lane, mentioned in my last report, are included in the above.

Lunt

This Township has been again free from Infectious Disease.

Thornton

One case of Erysipelas was reported here.

The Slaughter House is now kept in a Sanitary condition.

Ince Blundell

This Township has been gradually improving, no Infection at all having taken place. This is probably due in a great measure to the extensive Sanitary Improvements executed during 1908, and referred to in my last Annual Report.

There are six cottages in Carr Lane which are in their present condition unfit for habitation, and not supplied with good water. The matter has been for some time under the consideration of your Council and will now be better able to be dealt with.

Reference will be made to this later in this Report.

Netherton

As usual a large proportion of the Infectious Cases occurred here, and all of these were in that portion which adjoins the city of Liverpool, and is a long way from the village proper.

Six cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Enteric occurred. One case of Scarlet and the Enteric case were sent to Liverpool City Hospital. The other five cases of Scarlatina (all in one house) were treated at home, and all the cases recovered.

Kirkby

Two cases of Scarlatina and one of Erysipelas were here reported. One case of Scarlatina was sent to Liverpool City Hospital, and one was treated at home.

The Septic Tank at Kirkby Park, has been thoroughly overhauled and repaired and is working in a satisfactory manner.

West Derby Rural

As referred to in my last Annual Report, the greatest amount of attention is required in looking after the large Piggeries which exist here. Periodical inspections have been made by myself and your Inspector, and we find generally, a desire to keep them in a sanitary condition. So long as our instructions are complied with, it will not be necessary to take any steps to close them, but should any failure to comply occur, your attention will be immediately asked for.

The Cottages in Croxteth View have now been connected with the sewer in Deysbrook Lane, and I should like to see the three Pig Farms there also connected without delay. The junctions are all ready, and it is the only way of properly draining these places. Two cases of Diphtheria, Six of Scarlet Fever, and One of Erysipelas, have been under notice here. One Diphtheria case and three Scarlet were sent to City Hospital. The rest were isolated and treated at home. All ended in recovery.

Common Lodging Houses

The Common Lodging Houses at Dog and Gun have been duly inspected, and no infection has occurred here, nor has any cause arisen for serious complaint.

Ashpits and Middens

The Ashpits and Middens here have been as heretofore emptied by contract, and general satisfaction has been given in the manner in which it has been conducted.

Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds

These have been periodically inspected, and are in a satisfactory condition.

Bakehouses

None.

Factories and Workshops

There are no Factories; the two Workshops ~~which~~ are conducted in conformity with the regulations.

Copies

As usual I am sending copies of this Report, together with Statistical Tables, to the Local Government Board, the Lancashire County Council, and to the Home Office.

Tables

Printed forms, duly filled in, Tables I. to V. of Births, Deaths, and New Cases of Sickness, are herewith appended.

Summary

It is satisfactory to be able to state that during the year not a single death has occurred from the more serious of the principal Zymotic Diseases. The three which did occur were from complications following Measles and Whooping Cough. It is the first year since I have been your officer that we have not had a single death from Diphtheria, Scarlatina or Enteric Fever.

The general Sanitary condition of the District is improving yearly, and the difficulty we have had in the past in regard to insanitary cottages, such as those now under consideration in Carr Lane, Ince Blundell, will in future be much easier to deal with owing to the powers given to you under the Town Planning Act.

The gradual extension of the Liverpool water mains is also a source of gratification to your Officers and must conduce to the General Health of those so supplied.

I have had complaints *re* the River Alt and have several times inspected same; it is in a filthy condition and is now receiving attention from the County Council which I hope will lead to its improvement.

At the time of closing this Report, the District is practically free from Infectious Disease, and its sanitary condition is satisfactory.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. BRADSHAW, L.R.C.P., D.P.H., &c.,
Medical Officer of Health.